

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 have been amended. Claims 1-3 are now pending in this application. Support for the amendments is found in the existing claims and the specification as discussed below. Accordingly, the amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter. Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Personal Interview

Applicants' representative would like to thank Examiner Moran and Dr. Clow for the helpful and productive interview of April 1, 2004. A summary of the Interview is found on page 5 of this paper.

Claim objections

The objections to claim 1 are believed to have been overcome as a result of the Personal Interview on April 1st 2004 including the claim amendments which were submitted prior to the interview.

Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

In view of Applicant's amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In view of the discussion of Claim 1 at the Interview of April 1st, it is believed that Claim 1 now meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Support for amendments to claim 1 is found in Figure 1 and the corresponding discussion in the specification.

Regarding claim 2, the first step of claim 2 has been amended to recite separate steps. Steps 3, 4, 5, 6, and 6a have been further amended subsequent to the interview in order to address issues raised during the interview. That is, the repeating steps have been amended as had been discussed for claim 1 and steps 3 and 4 of claim 2 have been amended to clarify that the oligomers correspond to either the odd or even part but also include a section for base pairing. Support for amendments to claim 2 is found in Figure 2 and the corresponding discussion in the specification.

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In view of Applicant's amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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